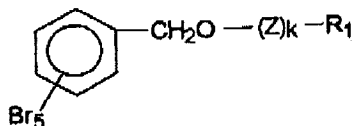


-2-

1. (Previously Presented) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group $-(\text{Y}-\text{O})_n-$, wherein Y is a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_8)$ alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- R_1 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{10})$ alkyl, allyl, or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero R_1 represents a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_4-\text{C}_{10})$ alkyl, and when k is 1 R_1 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)$ alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl.

2. (Original) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein Z represents a group selected from $-(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_n$ and $-(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_n$, wherein n represents 2.

3. (Original) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein $k=1$ and R_1 represents H, methyl or butyl.

4. (Previously Presented) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein $k=0$ and R_1 represents branched (C_8) alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

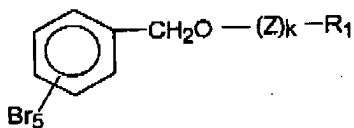
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pentabromobenzyl-O- $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{CH}_3$;pentabromobenzyl-O- $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{H}$;pentabromobenzyl-O- $(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{OH}$;pentabromobenzyl-O- $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_3$;pentabromobenzyl-O- $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_2\text{-CH}_3$, andpentabromobenzyl-O- $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_2\text{-H}$

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded polymeric or polymer-containing composition comprising a pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group $-(\text{Y-O})_n-$, wherein Y is a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_8)$ alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- R_1 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})$ alkyl, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10})$ alkylene-OH, allyl, or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero R_1 represents a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{10})$ alkyl or a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10})$ alkylene-OH and when k is 1, R_1 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl.

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9. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 8, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated polyethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, styrene resins, high-impact polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, flexible and rigid polyurethane, epoxy resins and unsaturated polyester resins.

10. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is polypropylene.

11. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is high impact polystyrene (HIPS).

12. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is acryl-butadiene-styrene terpolymer (ABS).

13. (Original) A fire retarded composition according to claim 9, wherein said polymer is polyurethane.

14. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded composition according to claim 8, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polypropylene copolymer, high impact polystyrene (HIPS) and acryl-butadiene-styrene terpolymer (ABS), and said pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether is selected from the group consisting of:

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH₂CH₂O)₂CH₃;

pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH₂CH₂O)₂H;

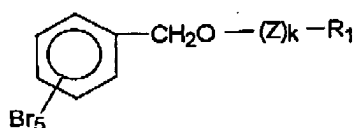
pentabromobenzyl-O-(CH₂)₆OH;

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pentabromobenzyl-O-CH₂CH(C₂H₅)(CH₂)₃CH₃;
 pentabromobenzyl-O-(C₃H₆O)₂-OCH₃, and
 pentabromobenzyl-O-(C₃H₆O)₂-H

15. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded composition according claim 8, further comprising a metal oxide, preferably Sb₂O₃.

16. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether of the formula:



wherein:

- Z represents the group $-(\text{Y}-\text{O})_n-$, wherein Y is a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_8)$ alkylene-;
- n represents an integer from 2 to 4;
- k may be 0 or 1;
- R₁ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{10})$ alkyl, allyl, or 1,2-dibromopropyl; provided that when k is zero R₁ represents a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_4-\text{C}_{10})$ alkyl, and when k is 1 R₁ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched $-(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)$ alkyl, allyl or 1,2-dibromopropyl, comprising reacting a glycol, a mono-, or di-alcohol of the formula HO-(Z)_k-R₁, or the corresponding metal alcoholate thereof, with a pentabromobenzyl halide.

17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the pentabromobenzyl halide is pentabromobenzyl bromide.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the reaction occurs in the presence of a base.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the linear or branched $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$ is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$.

23. (Previously Presented) A fire retarded polymeric or polymer-containing composition of claim 8, wherein the linear or branched $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$ is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$.

24. (Previously Presented) A pentabromobenzyl alkyl ether according to claim 1, wherein the linear or branched $-(C_2-C_8)\text{alkylene}-$ is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of using the ~~composition~~ compound of claim 1 as a fire-retardant.